What would you do if an old teacher, a friend and mentor, looked you in the eye and told you that you need to hear his story? Would you listen? In the book Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Albom, a dying professor, Morrie Schwartz, espouses a different way of life to his old student Mitch. Mitch listens to the lessons that Morrie teaches him while on his deathbed, and Mitch adopts the idea of disavowing the current culture that exists, accepting one that is more loving and meaningful.

One way that Mitch adopts Morrie’s ideas is when Morrie recognized that Mitch doesn’t like to cry, which emphasizes what culture suggests that “we don’t let those tears come because we are not supposed to cry” (105). Morrie thinks that Mitch needs to rid himself of this misguided idea. He says, “’Ah, Mitch, I’m gonna loosen you up. One day, I’m gonna show you it’s okay to cry’” (51). Mitch finally accepts Morrie’s ideas concerning tears: “I blinked back the tears, and he smacked his lips together and raised his eyebrows at the sight of my face. I like to think it was a fleeting moment of satisfaction for my dear old professor: he had finally made me cry” (186). This demonstrates that Mitch heard and understood his professor’s teachings on crying.

Also, another way of examining the negative aspects of our current culture, Morrie iterates the belief that a meaningful life is not about money or getting rich. He is opposed to what Ted Turner thinks when Turner says, “I don’t want my tombstone to read ‘I never owned a network’” (123). Morrie says, “’We’ve got a form of brainwashing going on in our country’” where Morrie states that culture emphasizes, “*More is good. More is good.* . . . The average person is so fogged by all this, he has no perspective on what’s really important anymore” (124-125). Mitch recognizes that culture’s preoccupation with making money is the opposite of Morrie’s recognition that human interaction is more important. Mitch states, “. . . I liked myself better when I was there [Morrie’s house]. I no longer rented a cellular phone . . . *Let them wait*, . . .” (55). This illustrates Mitch’s understanding and acceptance that work and money were secondary to human interaction.

Finally, and most importantly, Mitch learns Morrie’s most valuable lesson, that love always wins. Morrie taught about the idea of “a tension of opposites” when he referred to how to live a life. He said, “You want to do one thing, but you are bound to do something else. Something hurts you, yet you know it shouldn’t.” Morrie, predictably, stated that in life (and relationships) there is no tension of opposites. He says, “’Love wins. Love always wins’” (40). Mitch learns this most important of lessons when he recognizes how important his wife is to him, when he reacquaints himself with his estranged brother, but most importantly when he recognizes and forms his special bond with his old professor, Morrie. Mitch visits his old friend’s gravesite, stating, “. . . I glanced around the cemetery. Morrie was right. It was indeed a lovely spot, trees and grass and a sloping hill. ‘*You talk, I’ll listen*,’ he had said” (188). Mitch ignores work, ignores deadlines, ignores his former preoccupation with culture and its ideas on fame and importance by visiting his friend, Morrie. And, “It was Tuesday” (188).

By the end of the book, and Morrie’s life, Mitch understands what Morrie stood for: human kindness, love triumphs over everything, and that spending time together, is the only human salvation. Morrie taught every Tuesday. Mitch attended all of his classes. And as a good student, he learned every lesson.